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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1.   (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person in a phonebook

database in said mobile telephone equipment;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

comparing ~~determining whether~~ said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-

communication time to ~~exceeds~~ a predetermined time interval; and

alerting when ~~it is determined that~~ the predetermined time interval is less than

~~exceeded by~~ said amount of time since the last-communication time.

Claims 2-3.   (Canceled).

Claim 4.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein

said last-communication time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is

registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 5.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein

said last-communication time is updated each time communication with the person is

terminated.

Claim 6.   (Original) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the

predetermined time interval is arbitrarily determined depending on a user's instruction.

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Claim 7.　　　(Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein

the alerting is performed by driving at least one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 8.　　　(Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

　　　storing a last-communication time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons

in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

　　　dividing the plurality of persons into at least one group;

　　　determining a before-alert time interval for each of the at least one group, wherein the

before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with a person in a

group is not made before alerting;

　　　calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

　　　comparing ~~determining whether~~ the before-alert time interval to ~~is exceeded by~~ said

amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time; and

　　　alerting when ~~it is determined that~~ the before-alert time interval is less than ~~exceeded~~

~~by~~ said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time.

Claim 9.　　　(Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein

the last-communication time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is

registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 10.　　　(Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein

the last-communication time is updated each time a communication with the person is

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terminated.

Claim 11.   (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

        storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person in a phonebook

database in said mobile telephone equipment;

        storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

        calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

        comparing ~~determining whether~~ a predetermined time interval <u>to</u> ~~is exceeded by~~ said

amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

        alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and <u>when</u> ~~it is~~

~~determined that~~ the predetermined time interval <u>is less than said amount of time that</u> has

elapsed <u>since said last-communication time</u>; and

        inhibiting an alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even

if it is determined that the predetermined time interval <u>is less than said amount of time that</u>

has elapsed <u>since said last-communication time</u>.

Claim 12.   (Canceled).

Claim 13.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 11,

wherein the alerting is performed by driving at least one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a

display.

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Claim 14.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 13,

wherein inhibiting comprises an audible alert by the speaker and/or the vibrator is inhibited

and a silent alert on the display is permitted.

Claim 15.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, further

comprising:

        storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

        displaying the alert list in a form of a menu on a display so that a desired one can be

selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 16.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, further

comprising:

        storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

        displaying the alert list in a form of a menu on a display so that a desired one can be

selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 17.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 11, further

comprising:

        storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

        displaying the alert list in a form of a menu on a display so that a desired one can be

selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 18.   (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

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said apparatus comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person; and

a controller for <u>calculating</u> ~~determining, based on a current time, whether a predetermined time interval is exceeded by~~ an amount of time since said last-communication time, <u>comparing said amount of time since said last-communication time to a predetermined time interval.</u> and starting the alert function when ~~it is determined that~~ the predetermined time interval is <u>less than</u> ~~exceeded by~~ said amount of time since said last-communication time.

Claim 19.   (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into at least one group; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with a person in a group is not made before alerting, <u>calculating</u> ~~determining whether the before-alert time interval is exceeded by~~ an amount of time since the last-communication time, <u>comparing said amount of time since the last-communication time to said before-alert time interval.</u> and starting the alert function when ~~it is determined that~~ the before-alert time interval is <u>less than</u> ~~exceeded by~~ said amount of time since the last-communication time.

Claim 20.   (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

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comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-

communication time related to a name of a person;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert

is inhibited; and

a controller for <u>calculating</u> ~~determining, based on a time, whether a predetermined~~

~~time interval is exceeded by~~ an amount of time since said last-communication time and

<u>comparing said amount of time since said last-communication time to a predetermined time</u>

<u>interval,</u>

starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time

period and <u>when</u> ~~it is determined that~~ the predetermined time interval <u>is less than said amount</u>

<u>of time</u> ~~has elapsed~~ since said last-communication time, and

inhibiting an alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period,

even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval is <u>less than</u> ~~exceeded by~~ said

amount of time since said last-communication time.

Claim 21.   (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook

database in said mobile telephone equipment in response to a termination of a call to the

person;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said termination of said call

based upon said stored time data;

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comparing ~~determining whether~~ said amount of time <u>to</u> ~~exceeds~~ a predetermined time

interval; and

alerting when ~~it is determined that~~ the predetermined time interval is <u>less than</u>

~~exceeded by~~ said amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 22.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 21,

wherein the time is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was

made last.

Claim 23.   (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

        storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook

database in said mobile telephone equipment;

        storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

        calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since communicating with said person

based upon said stored time data;

        <u>comparing said amount of time that has elapsed since communicating with said</u>

<u>person to</u> ~~determining whether~~ a predetermined time interval ~~is exceeded by the amount of~~

~~time that has elapsed without communicating with the person~~;

        alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and <u>when</u> ~~it is~~

~~determined that~~ the predetermined time interval is <u>less than</u> ~~exceeded by~~ the amount of time

that has elapsed without communicating with the person; and

        inhibiting an alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period,

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even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval is <u>less than</u> ~~exceeded by~~ the

amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 24.   (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 23,

wherein the time data is a last-communication time at which communication with the person

was made last.

Claim 25.   (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-

communication time related to a name of a person to communicate with in response to

termination of a call to the person; and

a controller for calculating an amount of time since said last communication time,

<u>comparing</u> ~~determining, based on the time data, whether a predetermined time interval is~~

~~exceeded by~~ said amount of time <u>to a predetermined time interval,</u> and starting an alert

function when ~~it is determined that~~ the predetermined time interval is <u>less than</u> ~~exceeded by~~

the amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 26.   (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-

communication talk time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons to communicate

with in response to a termination of a call to the person, wherein the plurality of persons is

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divided into at least one group; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups,

wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with a

person in a group is not made before alerting, comparing ~~determining whether~~ the before-alert

time interval to ~~is exceeded by~~ an amount of time since the last-communication time based

upon said last-communication talk time, and starting the alert function when ~~it is determined~~

~~that~~ the before-alert time interval is less than ~~exceeded by~~ the amount of time since the last-

communication time.

Claim 27.   (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing time data related

to a name of a person to communicate with in response to a termination of a call to the

person;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert

is inhibited; and

a controller for calculating ~~determining, based on the time data, whether a~~

~~predetermined time interval is exceeded by~~ an amount of time that has elapsed without

communicating with the person based upon said stored time data, comparing said amount of

time that has elapsed without communicating with the person to a predetermined time

interval, starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time

period and ~~it is determined that~~ the predetermined time interval is less than the ~~exceeded by~~

~~an~~ amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person, and inhibiting

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alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined

that the predetermined time interval is less than the exceeded by an amount of time that has

elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 28.   (Canceled).

Claim 29.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said storing said last-

communication time comprises storing a last-communication time for each of a plurality of

names in said phonebook,

        wherein said calculating an amount of time comprises calculating an amount of time

since said last-communication for each of said plurality of names,

        wherein said comparing determining comprises comparing determining whether said

amount of time for at least one of said plurality of names to exceeds said predetermined time

interval, and

        wherein said alerting comprising alerting when the predetermined time interval is

exceed by said amount of time for at least one of said plurality of names.

Claim 30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said predetermined

time interval comprises the same predetermined time interval for at least two of said plurality

of names.